

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

Claims 1 through 22. (Cancelled)

SUB D47 23. (New) A method comprising:

recognizing a change to content of a user-populated group, said content .  
of the user-populated group comprising identifiers of a first set of items stored in  
memory;

generating a query in response to the change, said query being based on  
characteristics of the first set of items;

applying the query to an item space to identify a second set of items; and  
populating a second group with identifiers of the second set of items.

C1 24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the user-populated group comprises  
a related-items group, and wherein the first set of items share at least one  
characteristic with the second set of items.

25. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the user-populated group comprises  
a not-related-items group, and wherein the first set of items each have at least  
one characteristic that is not shared with any of the second set of items.

26. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the user-populated group comprises two subgroups, said subgroups comprising a related-items group and a not-related-items group.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein generating the query comprises:

finding positive characteristics among items indicated in the related-items group;

assigning a positive relevance to each positive characteristic based on a weighted occurrence of a respective positive characteristic among the items indicated in the related-items group;

finding negative characteristics among items indicated in the not-related-items group; and

assigning a negative relevance to each negative characteristic based on a weighted occurrence of a respective negative characteristic among the items indicated in the not-related-items group.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein applying the query comprises:

finding target items from the item space that include at least a certain number of the positive characteristics;

assigning a relevance score to each target item based on the positive relevances and the negative relevances of a respective target item's characteristics; and

selecting items to populate the second set of items from among the target items based on the relevance scores.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein selecting items to populate the second set comprises one of:

selecting all of the target items;  
selecting a certain number of target items; and  
selecting only target items that have a relevance score over a certain threshold.

30. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein recognizing the change comprises one of:

recognizing when one of the identifiers of the first set of items has been moved from the related-items group to the not-related-items group; and

recognizing when one of the identifiers of the first set of items has been moved from the not-related-items group to the related-items group.

31. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein recognizing the change comprises one of:

recognizing when any identifier has been deleted from the user-populated group; and

recognizing when a new identifier has been added to the user-populated group.

32. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the user-populated group and the second group comprise a first organizational instance among a plurality of organizational instances, each of the plurality of organizational instances is based on a different set of target characteristics.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein recognizing the change comprises:  
recognizing when a new identifier has been added to the user-populated group from a second organization instance.

C1 34. (New) The method of claim 23 further comprising:  
recognizing additional changes to the content of the user-populated group; and  
repeating the generating, applying, and populating for each of the additional changes.

35. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the item space comprises at least one of documents, files, emails, tasks, notes, instant messages, contacts, and web pages stored in memory.

36. (New) The method of claim 23 further comprising:  
storing the user-populated group;  
recalling the user-populated group following a change in the item space;

regenerating the query;  
applying the query to the item space to identify an updated set of items;  
and  
repopulating the second group with identifiers of the updated set of items.

37. A machine readable medium having stored thereon machine executable instructions, the execution of which to implement a method comprising:

recognizing a change to content of a user-populated group, said content of the user-populated group comprising identifiers of a first set of items stored in memory;

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generating a query in response to the change, said query being based on characteristics of the first set of items;

applying the query to an item space to identify a second set of items; and  
populating a second group with identifiers of the second set of items.

38. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 wherein the user-populated group comprises a related-items group, and wherein the first set of items share at least one characteristic with the second set of items.

39. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 wherein the user-populated group comprises a not-related-items group, and wherein the first set of

items each have at least one characteristic that is not shared with any of the second set of items.

40. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 wherein the user-populated group comprises two subgroups, said subgroups comprising a related-items group and a not-related-items group.

41. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 40 wherein generating the query comprises:

finding positive characteristics among items indicated in the related-items group;

CA assigning a positive relevance to each positive characteristic based on a weighted occurrence of a respective positive characteristic among the items indicated in the related-items group;

finding negative characteristics among items indicated in the not-related-items group; and

assigning a negative relevance to each negative characteristic based on a weighted occurrence of a respective negative characteristic among the items indicated in the not-related-items group.

42. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein applying the query comprises:

finding target items from the item space that include at least a certain number of the positive characteristics;

assigning a relevance score to each target item based on the positive relevances and the negative relevances of a respective target item's characteristics; and

selecting items to populate the second set of items from among the target items based on the relevance scores.

43. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 42 wherein selecting items to populate the second set comprises one of:

selecting all of the target items;

selecting a certain number of target items; and

selecting only target items that have a relevance score over a certain threshold.

44. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 40 wherein recognizing the change comprises one of:

recognizing when one of the identifiers of the first set of items has been moved from the related-items group to the not-related-items group; and

recognizing when one of the identifiers of the first set of items has been moved from the not-related-items group to the related-items group.

45. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 wherein recognizing the change comprises one of:

recognizing when any identifier has been deleted from the user-populated group; and

recognizing when a new identifier has been added to the user-populated group.

46. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 wherein the user-populated group and the second group comprise a first organizational instance among a plurality of organizational instances, each of the plurality of organizational instances is based on a different set of target characteristics.

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47. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 46 wherein recognizing the change comprises:

recognizing when a new identifier has been added to the user-populated group from a second organization instance.

48. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 further comprising:

recognizing additional changes to the content of the user-populated group; and

repeating the generating, applying, and populating for each of the additional changes.



49. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 wherein the item space comprises at least one of documents, files, emails, tasks, notes, instant messages, contacts, and web pages stored in memory.

50. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 37 further comprising:

storing the user-populated group;

recalling the user-populated group following a change in the item space;

regenerating the query;

applying the query to the item space to identify an updated set of items;

and

repopulating the second group with identifiers of the updated set of items.